

**PIMA COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
FOR THE SERIOUSLY METALLY ILL
10TH ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2007
Doubletree Hotel
445 S. Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ 85711
Draft Minutes**

Attendees:

Ken Karrels, Ph.D., Elizabeth Edwards, Joe Mucenski, Judy Kowalick, John O'Dowd, Lanice Ameling, Susan Hyder, Dave Ruitenber, Marty Scheinkman

Absent:

Mary Wetzel, Ph.D.

Guests:

Julie McCracken, Rep.Phil Lopes, Dist. 27, AZ. House of Representatives, Peri Jude Radecic, ACDL

Advisors:

Ray Ogsby, ADHS/DBHS OHR, Karen Smith, HRC Coordinator, Michelle Michelson, ACDL

Overview of Agenda

- The chair welcomed participants to the 10th Annual planning meeting. He also reviewed the agenda for attendees.

Introductions/Announcements

- Attendees were asked to introduce themselves. The introductions including telling where they were from, role in behavioral health activities, and goals for 2007 in the mental health community.
- Tucson will hold the NAMI Walk on 3/31/07. NAMI Provider Education Classes are now being held.
- Statewide HRC meeting will be 2/9/07. More information will follow with a request for RSVP.

Review of 2006 Committee Activities

1. Issues with SAMHC were addressed by Carol Little. She will meet with the committee in the next 2-3 months to provide an update and review data collected.
2. Parity issues—Committee met with Eddy Broadway in the spring and had a follow-up meeting with Susan Gerard on October 25th to discuss these issues. Committee has not received information requested at the meeting in October.

3. List Serve—Joe M. has created the list serve for all HRC members in the state who provided an e-mail address. Karen requested that Joe provide further information for the List Serve members because other HRC's have expressed some confusion regarding both the purpose of the List Serve and how to use it.
4. Update on law suit—John informed the committee that the hearing will be held on January 23. John also thanked Michelle M. for the brief she drafted as a "Friend of the Court". He commented that it was very well prepared.
5. Housing Dollars—CPSA has received an additional million dollars to meet housing needs.
6. CIT legislative activity—Joe M. reported that the bill will be introduced in the legislature again this year.

The committee members determined that all of these issues will need continued follow up in 2007. Subcategories for some were developed for 2007 and will be listed below. The committee also elected to add additional issues to the list for 2007.

1. Data Base—in collaboration with DBHS develop a data base to track Incident and Accident reports and Seclusion and Restraint reports for which the committee has requested follow up.
2. Follow up on Corrective Action Plans (CAP) enumerated in the decision letters received by the committee. Committee members have requested information regarding the procedures used to ensure that the CAP requirements have been satisfied. The response received was not adequate in the committee's opinion: ie. There was no evidence that the CAP for reviewed to determine if it had been implemented.
3. HRC Reports required by statute—discussion about how the reports would be prepared and who would prepare them. This will be an agenda item at the next regular meeting.
4. Develop a process to follow the progress of the use of Bond Funding dedicated to the Urgent Care Center, etc.
5. Mental health services provided in the jail. The committee plans to schedule a meeting with Supervisor Elias to review the contract.
6. Review the impact of the Arnold v. Sarn (State of Arizona) statewide
7. Develop strategies to increase both the visibility and effectiveness of the Pima County HRC.
8. Develop a schedule for site visits. Continue review of Seclusion and Restraint reports and Incident and Accident reports.
9. 2006 Parity subcategory—caseload issues
10. 2006 Housing sub category—Boarding

Presentation by Rep. Lopes

Rep. Lopes introduced himself to the committee and discussed his experience in various positions related to health care. He then presented his four areas of emphasis for this legislative session.

1. Mental health parity in health insurance.
This has been a difficult area to address due to lack of data; however, data is now being tracked from the AZ State Employee Ins. Program.
2. Impact of new Minimum Wage on Person's with Developmental Disabilities
He does not think the waiver is going to pass in this legislative session. Concerns about Civil Rights Issues and looking for a balance are being addressed in this session. The committee wanted to know if this affected individuals with a mental illness who are employed.
3. Maricopa County RFP—briefly discussed a meeting he attended where he met bidders for the contract. Is a “for profit” contractor able to provide adequate services? He has not formed an opinion, but after looking at the figures Ken presented to him regarding funding differences between Maricopa and Pima County, as a legislator he would want to review the data further.
4. State Health Plan Bill. This bill would create a state insurance company, managed by a nine person commission, to be managed independent of the legislature. The benefit package offered would have a minimum standard of providing comparable benefits to those in the current AZ. State Employee package. This program addresses cost and availability of insurance and would impact the rate of rising health care costs.

A brief time for questions followed his presentation.

1. How would this impact services for undocumented individuals?
Negotiate with Mexico to provide for cost in US. AZ pays cost for their citizens living in Mexico.
2. Have any other states implemented or proposed a similar plan?
Massachusetts, New Mexico, California.
3. Would anyone be exempted?
If individual currently has a benefit plan that is richer than the state plan they can opt out. Examples he provided were persons receiving VA benefits, Federal Civil Service insurance benefits.
4. Is there evidence that this plan will work?
Yes, many studies have proved the plan will work. United States is the only country in the world that doesn't have some type of universal health care plan.
5. What will be major issues for the legislature this year?
Growth, planning, water, additional money for school buildings, transportation, higher pay for teachers, 3 ½ % raise for state employees.
6. Views on Faith Based Council? Not familiar with the council—

Presentation on Seclusion and Restraint Q/A M. Michaelson

Michelle had prepared a folder for each participant that included a power point presentation entitled Overview of State Regulations Regarding Abuse, Neglect, Restraint and Seclusion as well as additional excerpts from the Arizona

Administrative Code Title 9, Chapters 20 and 21. She marked the appropriate areas for reference in these documents. Due to lack of time, Michelle agreed to complete her presentation during a regular committee meeting.

Ken thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm.

Next regular meeting February 27 at 10:30am.